

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 054395
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S:FGWISNER:SBA
APPROVED BY AF:WESCHAUFLELE
AF/W:TSMITH
S/S - MR. SEBASTIAN
-----111522Z 125965 /40

P 111508Z MAR 77 ZFF6
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA PRIORITY
INFO WHITE HOUSE PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 054395

NODIS
FOR THE AMBASSADOR; WH FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR, RH

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT TOLBERT ON RHODESIAN
SITUATION

REF: MONROVIA 1652 AND 1680

1. WE APPRECIATED YOUR HELPFUL AND FULL ACCOUNT OF MUZOREWA'S CURRENT THINKING. WE HAVE AVOIDED PROVIDING ANY OF THE NATIONALISTS WITH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THEIR POLITICAL ACTIVITIES SINCE IT CONTINUES TO BE OUR POLICY TO PICK NO FAVORITES. TOLBERT'S STAND WITHIN THE OAU IS MOST WELCOME. HAD THE OAU DECIDED IN FAVOR OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, THE TASK THE BRITISH AND WE FACE IN RECONVENING A CONFERENCE WHICH WILL INCLUDE ALL PARTIES WOULD BE GREATLY COMPLICATED.

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2. WE DO NOT WANT TO GIVE THE LIBERIANS ANY ENCOURAGEMENT THAT WE ARE CONSIDERING ASSISTING MUZOREWA EITHER DIRECTLY OR THROUGH THEM. TOLBERT'S STATEMENT THAT HE MUST MAINTAIN HIS NEUTRALITY IF HIS ROLE IS TO BE AN EFFECTIVE ONE IS WELL TAKEN.

3.FYI-WE HAVE STRONG INDICATIONS THAT MUZOREWA IS CONSIDERING DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS WITH SMITH WITH A VIEW TO

ORGANIZING A REFERENDUM IN RHODESIA. IF MUZOREWA FOLLOWS THIS COURSE, HE MUST HAVE DECIDED THAT IT IS ONE LIKELY TO BRING HIM TO POWER. SHOULD WORD OF HIS NEGOTIATIONS WITH SMITH BREAK, THE BISHOP WILL ENCOUNTER STIFF OPPOSITION FROM THE FRONT LINE STATES AND POSSIBLY FROM MUCH OF AFRICA. WHILE WE WANT TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH MUZOREWA, IT IS IN OUR INTEREST TO KEEP SOME DISTANCE FROM HIM, SHOULD HE PROCEED ON THIS RISKY COURSE.
END FYI.
VANCE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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